

TOWN OF HERNDON

Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HERNDON MAYOR, ACTING TOWN MANAGER HOST DELEGATION OF LATVIAN ELECTED OFFICIALS

Herndon, VA (April 19, 2007) – Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and Acting Town Manager Art Anselene today hosted a delegation of elected officials from the Eastern European nation of Latvia, educating them about the Town's government structure and community development strategies.

The 24-member delegation was visiting Northern Virginia municipalities at the invitation of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). Last year, the US Embassy in Latvia hosted a visit by NVRC Executive Director Mark Gibb and others; this reciprocal visit was designed to showcase democracy and small-to-medium government operations in Northern Virginia. The Town of Leesburg and Fairfax County also hosted the Latvian delegation.

“It was a pleasure to welcome this distinguished group to Herndon and to discuss with them our community, our government and our way of life,” said DeBenedittis. “They were particularly interested in the [Fairfax County] school system and how it works, as well as the degree to which citizens participate in the democratic process.”

In addition to hearing presentations from the Mayor and Acting Town Manager, the Latvian delegates toured Herndon's municipal complex and the newly-renovated Herndon Community Center during their two hour visit.

Latvia is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, between Estonia and Lithuania. Latvia has a population of 2.2 million and its physical size is slightly larger than West Virginia. Latvia declared its independence from Soviet Russia on November 18, 1918.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people. In 2006, Herndon was named one of the "best affordable suburbs" in the nation by *Business Week* Magazine.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.herndon-va.gov.

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